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[54] **COMPUTER IMPLEMENTED METHOD FOR
SIMULTANEOUS MULTI-USER EDITING OF
A DOCUMENT**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **707/203; 707/10; 707/511;
345/331**

[58] **Field of Search** 707/511, 203,
707/8, 530, 10; 709/205, 102; 711/152,
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Word processing program module having a multi-user editing capability provided for by the utilization of a multi-user control file (MCF) that is created when a document is first accessed. The MCF is comprised of individual record files for the master copy of the document, and each user and includes an assigned name, a date/time number, and a version identifier number. The MCF facilitates the tracking of the version identifier numbers to control the timing and sequence of events when a user opens, saves, and/or closes a document. The MCF also facilitates the control of the reconciliation of documents that may be required when a user attempts to save as well as facilitates the performing of the necessary timing functions when conflict resolving is required before edits are saved. The MCF further facilitates the capability to automatically recover the multi-user editing environment from a system failure as well as to manually remove a user from the multi-user editing environment.

24 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets

